



Rock Talk

The Official Newsletter of the Withlacoochee Rockhounds

President's Message



Musings, Updates, and More from Club President - Judith Birx

Fellow members of the Withlacoochee Rockhounds, Our next meeting will be held on June 9th 2021 at 7:00pm. The meeting will be held with the new CDC and State Guide lines. The wearing of masks is now **optional**. We ask that you follow the guidelines; If you are vaccinated, you do not have to wear a mask. If you are not vaccinated, you should be wearing a mask to protect yourself. Keep in mind that the vaccine is only 90% effective. You still have a chance of contracting the virus. With all this information, you are still responsible for making choices that could affect your life.

As always :

- If you attend our meetings, you are attending at your own risk and are now aware that masks are not required to attend.
- If you are not feeling well , please do not attend.
- If you are in the high risk category please consider staying home.
- If you are not vaccinated please wear your mask (we love you and want everyone to stay well).

We are not requiring you show us your vaccination card at this time.

We are still planning on the installation of the UV lamp to the air conditioning unit at the center. This lamp should help keep the air purified during our meetings.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me, Judith Birx, at 352-587-1702.

Our first free club jewelry class will be on July 6th , taught by me. It will be on Chain making with Copper wire! Nothing is required by you. It starts at 9:00am and can last as long as 12:00pm. I can't wait to see you all there!

This Month's Roundup of Stories

- President's Message
- Secretary's Report
- Nuclear Rock
- Lunar Meteorite
- Dorwin Skinner RIP
- Bench Tips

We will be setting up the Polishing machines at our next meeting. There will be members ready to assist you with instructions and rules you must follow before, during, and after the the use of these machines. We also have a small trim saw as well. **YOU MUST COME EARLY TO USE THE MACHINES! SOMEONE WILL BE THERE AT 5:30PM TO START THE SET UP!**

Janice will be presenting a program on agatized coral.

Melodye Stevenson will be setting up her Cabbing classes at our next meeting! Please let her know if you'd like to enroll.

By now you should know that Dorwin Skinner and John Motezer have passed away. These two guys did a lot for our club. They will both be missed dearly!

We will be having our 50/50 at the next meeting and I will not be playing because I feel guilty for winning twice in two months! LOL! I do want to express that the 50/50 is a way for our club to increase club funds as well as yours! I want to thank you for your support!

President Judith Birx

Secretary's Report

Minutes and More from Club Secretary - Melodye Stevenson

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Monthly Meeting

Date 5/12/21

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Judith Birx at 7:05pm.

We all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silent prayer.

There was 1 new member to recognize; Jennifer Penington.

There were 4 guests in attendance; Joel Larson, Barbara Mince y, Linda Langavin, & Bob Mulberg. Roberta Oldread made a motion to accept the minutes of our April meeting as printed in the newsletter, Roger Wheeler seconded. Passed by all members. Treasurer Janet Wheeler gave the Treasurer's report. Roberta Oldread made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report subject to audit. Seconded by Tommy Blackmon. Approved by all.

Old Business

President Birx began her announcements by stating that our next monthly meeting will be June 9th at 7:00 pm and reminding us that our meetings will continue to be held under CDC guidelines, dependent on decisions made by the Board of Directors;

Masks are mandatory;

Use of hand sanitizer;

Social distancing of six feet;

Doors will be open if possible;

Room will be sanitized before meeting;

Gloves recommended when handling money.

If you are sick or were in contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid, please do not attend. If you are in the high risk category, please do not attend. If you choose to not follow these guidelines, please do not attend.

You are attending meetings and all activities associated with the Withlacoochee Rockhounds at your own risk. You will be required to sign a waiver before entering the building.

She also announced that the Monthly Free Jewelry Class remains suspended at this time due to being unable to properly teach techniques while maintaining a distance of 6' away.

New Business

President Birx stated, "It saddens me to announce the death of two of our members; Dorwin Skinner and John Moetzer." She went on to say these men were members of the club for several years and helped form this club through working and volunteering tirelessly.

Dorwin had been a Board member and an Officer, and John had been Chairman of the Gem Show Committee at one time. She said that these men will be missed. She then turned over the floor to Dave Letassi, who asked to speak about his friend, Dorwin. Dave spoke about Dorwin's life and accomplishments and his contributions to our club as well as some endearing anecdotes from Dave's experiences with his friend.

President Birx announced the program for the evening would be Dave Davis teaching about Flint napping.

Continued on page 8



First nuclear detonation created 'impossible' quasicrystals

Mark Moore..this is up your alley!!

Scientists searching for quasicrystals — so-called 'impossible' materials with unusual, non-repeating structures — have identified one in remnants of the world's first nuclear bomb test.

The previously unknown structure, made of iron, silicon, copper and calcium, probably formed from the fusion of vaporized desert sand and copper cables. Similar materials have been synthesized in the laboratory and identified in meteorites, but this one, described in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences on 17 May, is the first example of a quasicrystal with this combination of elements.

In the aftermath of the Trinity test — the first ever detonation of a nuclear bomb, which took place on 16 July 1945 at New Mexico's Alamogordo Bombing Range — researchers found a vast field of greenish glassy material that had formed from the liquefaction of desert sand. They dubbed this trinitite.

This is an excerpted portion of the article.

Read the entire article here at Nature.com

Their structures were once controversial. Now researchers have discovered quasicrystals in the aftermath of a 1945 bomb test.

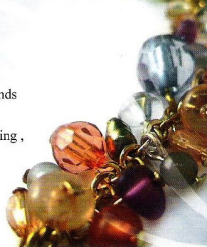


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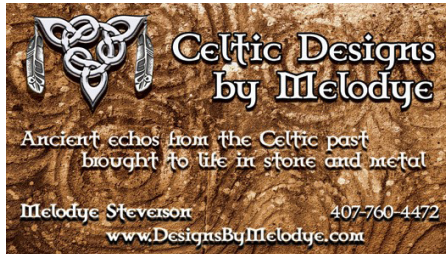
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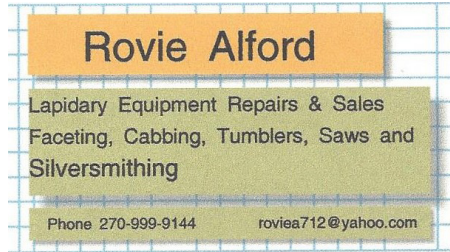
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Your Business Card Size Ad in Rock Talk

The cost for non-club members to advertise their businesses in
Rock Talk is \$10.00 per month.

Contact Michael Stevenson to set up an ad in both the newsletter and
the club website. It will benefit both
your business and our club.

If you ad has a web address, or Etsy shop address, I have linked to it.

Advertisers Are Needed

Please help us find advertisers for the Rock Talk and our website.

The monthly income from these ads is beneficial to the club.

Both the Rock Talk and our website have more exposure than only club members.

Contact club treasurer Janet Wheeler: ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com or
send to:

Withlacoochee Rockhounds
PO Box 5634 Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

New Mineral Discovered in Lunar Meteorite: Donwilhelmsite

To the moon!!!

Oued Awlitis 001 is a feldspathic lunar meteorite that was found in 2014 in Western Sahara, Africa. The main fragment of the space rock, originally 382 g, was found on January 15, 2014 by a group of eight travelers. It is largely covered with a green to brownish fusion crust showing features of orientation.

Another fragment, 50.5 g, fitting the larger one, was found a few weeks later; ~60% of it is covered with a crackled fusion crust and shows a rollover lip on one side. Two other fragments, 497 mg and 148 mg, were also found.

Oued Awlitis 001 is classified as an anorthositic lunar impact melt rock, composed of large anorthite clasts set in a poikilitic matrix of plagioclase, olivine, and pyroxene.

Scientists think that this meteorite was ejected from the Moon about 300,000 years ago.

The newly-discovered extraterrestrial mineral, named donwilhelmsite, is a high-pressure silicate with a formula of $\text{CaAl}_4\text{Si}_2\text{O}_{11}$.

Its name honors USGS geologist Don E. Wilhelms for his seminal and groundbreaking work on the geological history of the Moon.

This is an excerpted portion of the article.

Read the entire article here at [ScienceNews](#)

Scientists think that this meteorite was ejected from the Moon about 300,000 years ago.



Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Membership Form 2021

Annual Dues: New individual member, \$25.00. Under 18 years of age, \$5.00. No charge for paid 2020 members who are renewing for 2021. Returning members from 2019, \$20.00 (\$5.00 discount) for 2021 membership

☐

Check if returning member

☐

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with change of information

☐

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Check if under 18

Please Print Clearly

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You may now fill in the fields on this form if you are viewing it on your computer or tablet.
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You will still need to print out the form, but your added information should show on the

Give this completed form along with your check for dues made out to "Withlacoochee Rockhounds" to club secretary Janet Wheeler at a club meeting. Or mail the form and your check to:

**Withlacoochee Rockhounds
PO Box 5634
Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634**

Renewing 2020 members : No charge for 2021 membership. Please fill out form and give it to club secretary Janet Wheeler or send it to the above address.

2021

In Memoriam: Dorwin Skinner

A tribute written by Mike Stone



It is with much sorrow that we must inform club members that Dorwin Skinner of Spring Hill recently passed away.

Dorwin was a very active member of the Withlacoochee Rockhounds until a couple of years ago. He attended most meetings, including the jewelry workshops, and he participated in field trips to the Vulcan Mine. Dorwin travelled with Withlacoochee Rockhound friends on numerous rock hounding trip and visits to museums. He often brought his delicious white, cream, multi layered cake to club meetings, a hit with most club members and usually the first food to disappear, often before the start of the meetings.

We met Dorwin several years ago in the Weeki Wachee Wildlife Preserve. It was a sweltering hot day as we were heading into the Preserve to look for a geocache when we saw this white haired gentleman walking out of a wooded section. We struck up a conversation with Dorwin and quickly found that he had been hiding geocaches throughout the preserve for quite some time. He told us that he went by the screen name "Avvayad", and it was then when we realized we'd found several of his unique geocache containers. Somehow the conversation went to rocks and fossils and then to the Withlacoochee Rockhounds. Dorwin said that he might be interested in the rock club and he showed up at the next club meeting.

Within a short time, Dorwin attended a board meeting and soon became a member of the Board of Directors. When there was a vacancy for club vice president, Dorwin volunteered for the position and then became more heavily involved with the club by participating in decision making and club activity planning along with board members and fellow officers, and by helping with our newsletter the Rock Talk. Dorwin took photos at meetings, jewelry workshops, field trips, and the gem show. He wrote articles, including his monthly byline "The Meeting as I Saw It", he procured advertising for the club gem show, and promoted our club at local educational gatherings and craft shows.

During the short decade or so that we've known Dorwin, we learned that he was a man of much knowledge and many talents. He could rebuild delicate furniture, replicating intricate ornamental embellishments that perfectly blended with the original pieces. Smoking meats and making jerky, sausage, and kielbasa was another hobby in which Dorwin excelled. Due to health problems Dorwin eventually had to give up traditional rock hounding, but that didn't stop him from collecting, learning, and doing. He bought specimens on eBay, including fossils of mammal and dinosaur parts. But for Dorwin it was more than collecting and displaying these specimens. He researched and then built the missing and damaged pieces, producing extremely accurate restorations of these fossils. It seemed to us that no job was too time consuming, too tedious, or too difficult for Dorwin.

With Dorwin's passing we have lost a valuable club member, a resourceful and energetic member of society, and an all around good guy.

Dorwin, you will be remembered and missed by many, and it was a pleasure to have been your friend.

President Birx stated the Senior Center Board of Directors had their general meeting on May11th at 1pm. Several members of other clubs that meet at the Center were in attendance. The day-to-day maintenance of the building was discussed. It was apparent that there is much to do to keep it running and there are improvements to be made as we move forward. With that in mind, she announced that our Board is gathering quotes to have a UV light installed inside of the A/C unit at the clubhouse. This will be beneficial to all members of the Senior Center, as it will kill bacteria and viruses in the air before it is cycled back into the building.

She reminded all members that our Gem Show planning stage is at hand and everyone should decide how they can help. We will need volunteers to plan, execute and stage, as well as run the show. We will be forming the Committee very soon. Please do what you can to help!

President Birx read 2 newspaper articles written about our club in the 70's. One article was about one of their first Gem Shows, "Gemboree" as they called it. We have boxes of articles and pictures and plan on putting them in notebooks to share with the club now and for the future.

Field Trip Update; Lauren Bell and Lynn Walters shared the story of their rock trip, "May the Quartz be with you", and talked about doing a 'ladies only' rock trip next year. They also have some wonderful ideas for group trips and will be planning some trips in the future.

Lynn Walters made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Lauren Bell seconded, passed by all.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye Steverson.

- Continued on page 9

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Our monthly club meeting is held at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Club, 3357 Susan Dr., Spring Hill, FL 34606, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 PM

www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com



Your Business Card Size Ad in Rock Talk

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Please help us find advertisers for the Rock Talk and our website. The club can use the monthly income. Both the Rock Talk and our website have more exposure than only club members

Contact club treasure Janet Wheeler: ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com or send to: Withlacoochee Rockhounds PO Box 5634 Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Purpose

We are a non-profit organization whose purpose is to foster interest and promote knowledge of minerals, gems, fossils, lapidary arts, and earth sciences, through regular meetings, informative programs, workshops, and field trips. PLUS our annual gem and mineral and jewelry show. Membership is open to anyone sharing such interests.

Dues

Dues are \$20.00 annually for adults and no cost for children under 18 years of age.

Club Meeting Location and Time

Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center, 3357 Susan Drive in Spring Hill. The meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM.

2020 Club Officers and Appointees

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--|
| President..... | Judith Birx..... | 352-587-1702..... | judithbirx@hotmail.com |
| Vice President..... | Mark Moore..... | 352-586-9607..... | markles@bellsouth.net |
| Secretary..... | Melodye Steverson..... | 352-683-9496..... | melodye@designsbymelodye.com |
| Treasurer..... | Janet Wheeler..... | 727-938-3644..... | ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com |
| Rock Talk Editor | Michael Steverson | 407-376-5570 | highlander56@gmail.com |
| Club Web Master | Michael Steverson | 407-376-5570 | highlander56@gmail.com |
| Mailing Reporter..... | Janet Wheeler..... | 727-938-3644..... | ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com |
| Gem Bag Coordinator..... | Gloria DuPont..... | 352-848-5199..... | ddupont@tampabay.rr.com |
| Audio/Visual Coordinator..... | Michael Steverson..... | 407-376-5570..... | highlander56@gmail.com |

Board of Directors

Ralph Barber (past president)
Judith Birx (president)
Mark Moore (vice president)
Roberta Oldread (2020)
Melodye Steverson (secretary)

Ginny Steverson (2021)
Michael Steverson (2021 appointed)
Lynn Walters (2021)
Janet Wheeler (treasurer)

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Date 6/1/21

Attending Board members; Judith Birx, Mark Moore, Melodye Steverson, Janet Wheeler, Ralph Barber, Roberta Oldread, Lynn Walters and Michael Steverson.

Board meeting started at 6:38pm and was held via the Internet on Zoom.

President Birx began by stating that the CDC and State Guidelines had changed regarding masks. She asked the Board to vote to make masks optional for members. After discussion, Mark Moore made a motion to consider masks optional for members attending our meetings. Roberta Oldread seconded. The motion was passed by a majority.

President Birx asked Michael Steverson to show the updated new logo. He did so and it was approved by the Board. She asked Roberta Oldread to get a quote for 4" patches from her patch maker friend.

President Birx reported the quote she received from an A/C company for supplying and installing a UV light in the clubhouse's A/C unit was \$369. This will be scheduled.

President Birx brought up sending a donation in memory of Dorwin Skinner and John Moetzer. After discussion, Mark Moore made a motion that the club sends \$100 to Dorwin's church and find a cause to donate to in memory of John as well. Seconded by Judith Birx. Approved.

President Birx asked Ralph Barber if we have a food vendor for the Gem Show. He replied the usual one is lined up. She said the Lion's Club would do it, and to keep it in mind.

The meeting ended at 7:35pm.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye Steverson



Help Save William Holland School

For those of you that have not heard, the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts, aka William Holland Retreat, has decided to cancel their entire 2021 season due to the pandemic.

They plan to re-open for the 2022 season.

This school has meant a lot to many of our members over the years and now they are struggling to maintain their building and grounds without their normal revenue stream from students. If you're interested in helping, they have an auction every Tuesday and a sale on Wednesday. You can get slabs, cabochons, findings, tools, books and completed jewelry as well. These are on their Facebook pages. Just look up William Holland School on Facebook and I'm sure you can find them. They also offer videos of their teachers doing demos and classes, so you can learn from the site as well!

You can help the school and get great stuff at a good price at the same time. Check it out!



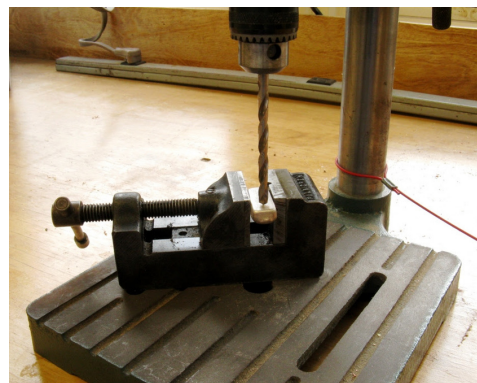
Bench Tips from Brad Smith

Brad Smith's *Bench Tips* are a monthly feature of Rock Talk

DRILL PRESS VISE

A drill press vise is a versatile tool to hold a workpiece securely and in precise alignment. It reduces the of risks of working with high power motors, using larger drill bits, and dealing with heat generated in the operation. The vise can be clamped to the drill press table if needed and is quite handy for use at the bench to hold things for sawing or riveting.

You can find them at stores that carry machine tool supplies. My feeling is that the best ones are made from steel. In particular, I like the ones with V grooves cut into the jaw plates. That lets me hold a punch straight upright or hold a rod horizontal. To find a supplier, search on "drill press vise" at sites like micromark.com mscdirect.com/enco smallparts.com grizzly.com



DENTAL GOLD

You might think that a couple pieces of dental gold would be valuable, but if you only have a small amount, it can be a problem. Sending it to a refiner is expensive for small lots.

I made the mistake of thinking I could melt it and roll out my own sheet. It turns out the trace metals in dental gold make it a good material in your mouth but cause it to crack if you try to forge it or roll it out as a sheet. They ruined my whole ingot.

So what to do with a couple gold crowns? A reasonable alternative is to try incorporating the metal into your jewelry. If you have enough material to do a casting, that's probably the best use for dental gold.

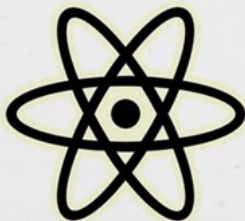
If you're not into casting, try melting it on a solder pad and while molten, divide it into small pieces with your solder pick. Then re-flow each piece to make little gold balls for use for accents on your designs. The balls can also be planished a bit to make small discs or struck with a design stamp to add texture.

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IS GNEISS, DON'T
TAKE IT FOR
GRANITE.**

**NEVER TRUST
AN ATOM.**



**THEY MAKE UP
EVERYTHING.**

**KEEP
CALM
AND
LICK
ROCKS**

Frank and Ernest



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From The Editor

Hello to all Withlacoochee Rockhounds

It is I, your friendly neighborhood editor again.

If you would like to place a business card ad in the newsletter, please feel free to contact me, and we'll get you added to next available issue.

Additionally, if any of you have not received your newsletter or are not receiving my e-mail blasts (meetings, rock sales, etc.), *please* check your spam folder. If you still are not receiving them, please contact me and let's make sure I have your correct e-mail address.

As noted in last month's Rock Talk, I have created for the club a Google My Business account. Doing this, when someone searches for "lapidary clubs near me", or "rockhounds near me", we will come up in their search. Now that this is live, if you would, please search for "Withlacoochee Rockhounds", and when you see our listing to the right side of the page in Google, please use the "Write a Review" link and give the club a good review. It helps with search engine results. Which means more people find us, and we hopefully acquire new members. It's a win-win!

Please note, in last month's newsletter, we posted that the William Holland School, and Wildacres School both had posted schedules of their classes for the summer. We have been notified that William Holland has had to cancel their entire 2021 season due to the COVID pandemic. They DO plan to reopen in 2022. William Holland School holds online auctions every Tuesday, and a sale on Wednesdays. Search for their page on Facebook, and please try to buy something from them. It will really help them out.

Our club is being updated and getting better every day, and we now have the new logo we spoke of in previous newsletters. Thank you to Janice Wojcik for the winning design. The new logo can be seen on the Secretary's Report page, and I will be incorporating it into other club documents. In addition, we are researching how soon we can also have patches created with the new logo. With that new logo, I will also create new t-shirts for the club. As with the present shirts, these shirts will be available on Amazon. I will post the link for the club as soon as they become available.

Our Board would like our members to come up with suggestions for Programs to be presented at our monthly meetings. What would you like to see? What would you like to learn? What would you like to know? Is there something you'd like to teach or present? You can help our club expand it's educational repertoire. We'd love to hear from you all. Contact any Board member or bring your written suggestions to a meeting.

Rock On!!!

Club Phone Number - 352.587.2714

Warning to Withlacoochee Rockhound Members

During the last several months, illicit requests have been sent to members of various clubs in the US, including the Withlacoochee Rockhounds, asking members to purchase gift cards that would be used as donations to various organizations.

These are SCAMS.

Be advised that our club has never and will never ask members to buy gift cards or provide any form of monetary funds to anyone or any organization by phone call, email, or any other method of communication.